

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 217107

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S U.S. VISIT

FOLLOWING NOTICE RELEASED TO PRESS OCTOBER 1:

QUOTE

PRESIDENT FORD AND BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER MUJIBUR RAHMAN MET IN THE OVAL OFFICE AT 3:00 P.M. TODAY FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. ALSO ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE AMBASSADOR HOSSEIN ALI AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN ON THE BANGLADESH SIDE AND GENERAL SCOWCROFT ON THE AMERICAN SIDE.

THIS WAS THE FIRST OCCASION FOR AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO WELCOME THE PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-BANGLADESH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1972. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK FOLLOWING BANGLADESH'S ADMISSION TO THE UN LAST MONTH.

AS A FIRST MEETING, THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER HAD A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO

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NATIONS AND ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE AREA. THE

PRESIDENT AFFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUING GOOD

RELATIONS AND ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER OF OUR SYMPATHY  
WITH THE NEEDS OF BANGLADESH AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST  
IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN WITH ITS PRESSING NEEDS.

IN THAT REGARD, BOTH LEADERS REVIEWED AREAS OF ECONOMIC  
ASSISTANCE WHERE THE U.S. HAS BEEN AND WILL BE HELPFUL,  
INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN DACCA  
LOOKING TOWARDS THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF A PL 480 AGREEMENT  
FOR THIS YEAR WHICH WILL AUTHORIZE AN INITIAL 150,000 TONS  
OF FOODGRAINS TO REACH BANGLADESH IN ITS TIME OF NEED.  
IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT ALSO INFORMED THE PRIME  
MINISTER THAT THE U.S. EXPECTS TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL  
AMOUNTS OF FOODGRAINS FOR BANGLADESH IN RESPONSE TO ITS  
CURRENT EMERGENCY SHORTLY. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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